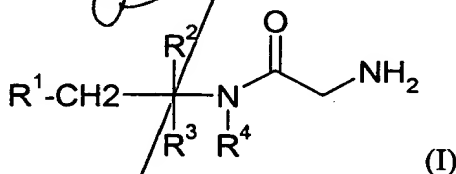


CLAIMS

1. Use a compound having NMDA antagonist activity in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.
3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula (I):



where:

R^1 and R^2 are independently phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl;
 R^3 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or methoxycarbonyl;
 R^4 is hydrogen or methyl;
 and metabolites and isomers thereof both as a free base and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula (I) is remacemide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
5. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is 2,3-diphenyl-2-propylamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
6. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is (S)-1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
7. Use according to claim 1 wherein the NMDA antagonist is memantine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
8. Use according to claim 1 where the compound is 2-amino-N-(1,2-diphenylethyl)acetamide, α -phenyl-1H-pyrazole-1-ethanamine, (+)-N-ethyl-1-phenyl-

2-(3-pyrazine)ethanamine, or 2-amidino-6-(2-amino-2-phenyl)-ethylpyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A method of treating or preventing irritable bowel syndrome which comprises administering to a patient in the need thereof a compound having NMDA antagonist activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome comprising a compound having NMDA antagonist activity and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

11. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.

12. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula I defined in claim 3.

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